

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 January, 1978

AM

10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: 28 February, 1978
28 March, 1978
- B. Minutes of December 1977 meeting.
- C. Waterfront Land Acquisition Proposal - Report.
- D. Proposed Guidelines - Outdoor Cafe Enclosures.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. Smithsonian Institution

Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden, Alterations to Include Handicapped Access - Resubmission.

B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. Tourmobile Maintenance and Storage Building, East Potomac Park.

2. American Legion Freedom Bell, Columbus Plaza, Union Station National Visitors' Center - Revised Support Designs.

C. General Services Administration

Old Post Office, 12th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Proposed Renovations and Environmental Impact Statement.

D. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 78-42, 1101 30th Street, N.W., New Apartment Building - Final Designs.

2. OG 78-43, 1110 Potomac Street, N.W., Flour Mill Multi-Use Development - Resubmission.

3. OG 78-44, 37th & O Streets, N.W., Georgetown University Student Residential Complex - Resubmission.

19 January, 1978

4. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 78-27, 1889 F Street, N.W., New Office Building -
Revised Design of Garden Wall.

2. Appendix 2.

E. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3.

INSPECTIONS

Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

South Sidewalk Area, Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd & 4th
Streets, N.W., Plans and Specifications.

19 January, 1978

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 78- 24	3301 M Street, N.W. Donohoe Construction Company, Inc.	Raze existing one-story garage.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. 12/23/77	
25	3301 M Street, N.W. Donohoe Construction Company, Inc.	Construct new townhouse group and commercial space per plans.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Do not issue permit. Approved for design development. Consider more regular M Street fenestration and heavier piers between arches. Submit material samples, signs, working drawings as ready. 12/23/77	
27	2934 M Street, N.W. Vietnam, Inc.	Winterize (enclose) existing garden cafe.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Do not issue permit. Proposal is out of keeping with scale and character of existing streetscape. Total enclosure of open garden space in historic district not appropriate. 12/23/77	
29	3616 N Street, N.W. Dr. John F. Bresette	New row house (resubmission refer to OG 78-29).
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. 12/23/77	
30	3000 M Street, N.W. Gus Levathes	Hotel/office/commercial complex (resubmission refer to OG 77-49).
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. Minor changes to pool area approved. 12/23/77	
31	1560 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Joseph Marsh	Townhouse group.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Do not issue permit. Recommend concept approval, but request restudy of Wisconsin Avenue facade as a two-story element. Additional facade studies to increase compatibility with church and character of Wisconsin Avenue are recommended. 12/23/77	
32	3261 K Street, N.W. Flour Mill Limited Partnership	Multi-use development and renovation (resubmission refer to OG 77-46).
<u>ACTION:</u>	Recommend approval of detail and design development except for refenestration of the old mill building with sheet glass. Request Commission's previous action recommending double-hung sash in all original window openings be followed. 12/23/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

19 January, 1978

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 78-34	35th & M Streets, N.W., NW Corner Ozzie Clay Enterprises	Two new residences.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Preliminary design approved; request design development and material samples be reviewed before issuance of permit. 12/23/77	
35	3222 M Street, N.W. Georgetown Park Associates	New commercial/residential/accessory parking complex (resubmission refer to OG 78-17).
ACTION:	See attached letter. 1/10/78	
36	3225 Grace Street, N.W. Georgetown Park Associates	Raze building on lot 59 (resubmission refer to OG 78-18).
ACTION:	See attached letter. 1/10/78	
37	3225 Grace Street, N.W. Georgetown Park Associates	Renovation of existing building (resubmission refer to OG 78-18).
ACTION:	See attached letter. 1/10/78	
38	1079 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Joe Fernandez	Awning over front window (resubmission refer to OG 77-185).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 1/4/78	

19 January, 1978

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
SL 78-13	310 First Street, S.E. Republican National Committee	Erect four-story, two-basement addition to existing building.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/23/77	
14	326 First Street, S.E. Republican National Committee	Raze building.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/23/77	
18	1889 F Street, N.W. Inter-American Properties	New eight-story office building (resubmission refer to SL 78-12).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend additional study of scheme without masonry wing wall. Suggest consideration of metal frame arbor which would provide a transition from public space to landscaped courtyard below. 12/23/77	
20	201 East Capitol Street, S.E. Trustees of Amherst College	Underground addition, repair of existing stair, preparation for future work (resubmission refer to SL 77-62).
ACTION:	Issue permit for Phase One. Submit working drawings and material samples for future construction as ready. 12/27/77	
21	501 2nd Street, N.E. Fred Moore	Enclose existing terrace.
ACTION:	Issue permit. No objection because of limited visibility. 1/5/78	
22	1501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. American Security Bank	Install lamp standards.
ACTION:	No objection to concept of two single-globe lighting fixtures being installed on cheek blocks adjacent to new entranceway on Pennsylvania Avenue. Request submission of detailed designs for review by Commission of Fine Arts prior to installation of lights. 12/27/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON HISTORIC SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

19 January, 1978

NO.	<u>SQUARE, LOT, ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
HS 77-70	Square 1218, Lot 845 3251 Prospect Street, N.W. Phenix, Inc.	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 845 into a record lot to permit construction of new residential/commercial complex.
ACTION:	No objection. 12/23/77	
71	Square 1200, Lots 802, 832, 59 3225 Grace Street, N.W. Georgetown Park Associates	Conversion and combination of Assessment and Taxation Lots 802 and 832 with Record Lot 59 to one record lot to allow construction of residential/commercial building.
ACTION:	No objection. 12/23/77	

PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

19 January, 1978

Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden

Phillip K. Reiss
Lester Collins

Tourmobile Building

John Parsons
Darwina Neal

American Legion Freedom Bell

Joseph Ronsisvalle
Matthew Irvin
Jack Patrick
William C. Anderson

Old Post Office

Arthur Cotton Moore
Al Peters
Harold Ronen

1101 30th Street, N.W.

Arthur Cotton Moore

1110 Potomac Street, N.W.

Peter Vercelli

Georgetown U. Housing

Dean Price
Altan Gursel

1889 F Street, N.W.

Lewis Goetz
Lawrence Kolp

Pennsylvania Avenue Paving

W. Anderson Barnes
Leland Allen
Donald Olson
Jerry Przystup

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 January, 1978

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
 Hon. Philip W. Buchen
 Hon. Victorine du Pont Homsey
 Hon. Kevin Roche

Staff Present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
 Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
 Mrs. Sue A. Kohler

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of the next meetings were set at Thursday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 28, 1978.

B. Minutes of the December 20, 1977 meeting were approved.

C. Waterfront Land Acquisition Proposal. The Secretary reported that the Commission had contacted the Secretary of Interior on the subject of acquiring the remaining waterfront land in the District of Columbia for park purposes. The Chairman said that he and the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission had sent identical letters of December 27, 1977 requesting a discussion of this subject. The Secretary told of a reply indicating that an undersecretary would be happy to discuss the matter with the Commission. The Chairman and the Secretary would arrange such a meeting.

D. Proposed Guidelines for Outdoor Cafe Enclosures. The Secretary told the members that a draft regulation on this subject had been prepared by the District of Columbia Municipal Planning Office and that the Commission could comment preliminarily and at the expected public hearing as well. The Chairman complemented the Secretary on the Commission's proposed draft response, suggesting that several amendments might be in order. Though light or temporary construction of outdoor dining facilities on public space would be desirable, the members indicated that the "plastic look" was one problem with light-weight construction. The use of glass in other cities was cited. The Commission agreed with the idea that Mr. Buchen proposed of a case-by-case design review of proposed facilities on public space being in order. The Commission of Fine Arts would offer to assist the District Government in this way. '

EXHIBIT A

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. Smithsonian Institution

Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden, Alterations including Handicapped Access - Resubmission. The Secretary presented drawings and a model depicting the existing and proposed Hirshhorn Garden configurations. The Commission had examined a very sketchy proposal previously and asked for cross-sectional studies and a model to examine the geometry of the proposal. Most of the steps and all of the gravel paving were to be removed as hard stone and brick paving and several ramps were to be installed and shaded by a number of new trees. The addition of grass areas for sculpture display was also being recommended. The members examined the material with the initial reaction that less change may be better, but that there may be compelling reasons for the departure from the original design.

Mr. Phillip Reiss of the Smithsonian and Mr. Lester Collins, the landscape consultant, were the project representatives. They explained that there were program changes for the display of sculpture as well as handicapped safety and visitors' comfort. They indicated that they had discussed the problems with Gordon Bunshaft, the original architect, who had agreed that some changes were in order, particularly on the amount of light reflected by the paving up onto the sculpture. After listening to the reasons behind the design, the Commission unanimously approved the preliminary design subject to design refinement and submission of material samples.

EXHIBIT B

B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. Tourmobile Maintenance and Storage Building, East Potomac Park. The Assistant Secretary presented photographs and drawings of a proposal to provide an industrial, vehicle storage, and service facility for Landmark Services tourmobiles near the National Capital Region Headquarters in East Potomac Park. The large utility structure would be between the Park Police parking lot and railroad tracks, with substantial screening from ground level park areas. The location, however, would be visible from the air, the Washington Monument, and trains entering the city, as a large roofscape. Mr. John Parsons of the National Park Service commented further on the need to locate the facility near tour routes on National Park Service land. Mr. Roche said that the structure was clearly in the wrong place. Park land near the Jefferson Memorial and next to the Potomac River, regardless of screening, was not as good as placing the facility in an industrial area. The Commission unanimously recommended that alternate sites be explored.

EXHIBIT C

2. American Legion Freedom Bell, Columbus Plaza, Union Station National Visitors' Center, Revised Support Designs. The Secre-

tary presented drawings indicating that the Commission had previously approved the site, but asked for a simplified support design. The architect, Mr. Jack Patrick, indicated his hope to use granite monoliths for the support. The Commission unanimously approved that concept, advising against a granite-clad steel support structure.

EXHIBIT D

C. General Services Administration

Old Post Office, 12th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Proposed Renovations and Environmental Impact Statement. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and photographs of the proposal to renovate and adaptively reuse the Old Post Office Building as a government office building on the upper floors and for retail-commercial on the bottom two floors. He pointed out that the building was located in a context demanding compliance with the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan and wedged between two unfinished wings of the Federal Triangle complex, as well as placed within an incomplete quadrant of the "Great Circle".

Mr. Harold Ronen of the General Services Administration made a statement indicating GSA's enthusiasm for the project and the competition process which had brought the project to the design stage. He asked for the Commission's endorsement and introduced Mr. Arthur Cotton Moore, the architect. Mr. Moore showed slides of existing and proposed conditions inside the building, talking in some detail about the efforts to retain the original design integrity as much as possible. There would be little or no exterior change from the 12th Street of Pennsylvania Avenue sides of the project. New entrances to the basement retail would face the south and east away from the prime public view.

The Commission had general discussion and questions on the proposal, giving a unanimous endorsement of the concept of adaptive use and preservation, provided a design solution to the unfinished ends of the adjoining Federal Triangle buildings could be assured. Though Mr. Moore indicated that this was not a part of his present contract, and Mr. Ronen said there were no specifically available funds for it, the Commission stated its insistence on finding a way to coordinate these design efforts, expressing the belief that nothing should be done on the exterior of this project that might tend to preclude a final solution to the larger problem in the future. Later the Commission visited the site and confirmed the Chairman's statement that the unfinished, unresolved design conditions around the Old Post Office were one of the main visual problems along Pennsylvania Avenue.

EXHIBIT E

D. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 78-42, 1101 30th Street, N.W., New Apartment Building - Final Designs. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and model photographs of this project which had been given the Commission's preliminary approval. He showed the design development drawings, indicating that the Georgetown Board had recommended approval. In particular the Commission had reviewed the project several times previously with suggestions that the height be reduced on the north facade. This had been done in the manner suggested by the members. Messers Donald Shannon and Grosvenor Chapman of the Georgetown community indicated their concern for the height of the penthouses and their materials. The Chairman said that the Commission shared this concern and agreed that the materials used should be carefully examined when samples were submitted. He further indicated that the Commission had studied this project in some detail, including model and site inspections, and that the Commission had unanimously given final approval to the design in its final, reduced form.

2. OG 78-43, 1110 Potomac Street, N.W., Flour Mill, Multi-Use Development, Resubmission. The Secretary presented drawings and photographs of this project involving the preservation and adaptive reuse of the old Bomford Flour Mill as an office building. The Commission had previously rejected the idea of replacing all sash and openings with sheet glass, saying that solution was out of character with the building. The architect, Mr. Peter Vercelli, showed a new scheme involving double-hung sash in all original-sized openings, while placing sheet glass in those few random-sized later or odd-sized openings. The Georgetown Board had recommended approval. The Commission unanimously approved the revision.

3. OG 78-44, 37th & O Streets, N.W., Georgetown University Student Residential Complex - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and photographs of a model to the members for a student residential complex proposed between New South and the library on the Georgetown University campus. He recalled the Commission's preliminary review and approval and the Georgetown Board's recommendation for approval of all but the brick, which ought to be examined in sample panels on the site. Mr. Dean Price told of the University's interest in the Commission's approval and willingness to proceed at top speed while providing suitable sample panels on the site. The Chairman indicated the Commission's unanimous approval.

4. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 78-27, 1889 F Street, N.W., New Office Building - Revised Design of Garden Wall. The Secretary presented a model showing the joint between the new office building, its garden, the public sidewalk, and the garden wall of Mrs. Robert L. Bacon, next door. In previous meetings the Commission had considered a variety of ways of handling this joint, recommending a simple low railing with trellises and planting. The architect, Mr. Lewis Goetz, told the Commission that the model depicted his interpretation of their previous comments. The Commission unanimously approved the general scheme subject to confirmation with working drawings and material selection.

2. Appendix 2, approved.

E. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3, approved.

III. INSPECTIONS

Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

South Sidewalk Area, Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd & 4th Streets, N.W., Plans and Specifications. Mr. Lee Allen of the PADC staff told the Commission that the Corporation had installed new brick samples for their inspection. He stated that an additional sample was not ready, but expected momentarily. The Commission then went to the site on 4th and Pennsylvania Avenue, where they unanimously recommended the concept of the 8-inch square size and wire-cut finish, but delegated final approval to the Chairman, to be decided after the additional anticipated, darker sample could be inspected. Later that afternoon the Chairman inspected the final sample and communicated the Commission's approval verbally to Mr. Allen.

EXHIBIT F

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

26 January, 1978

Dear Mr. Kuemmerling:

The matter of design guidelines on outdoor cafes was discussed at the Commission's meeting on January 19, 1978. We have a preliminary set of guidelines that I am attaching separately to this letter. The question is, how well can they be codified into any kind of effective building regulations.

It is difficult at best to achieve any but the simplest design objectives through guidelines or regulations. No matter how well the regulations may be written, they still have to be interpreted to some extent; in no way can the regulations themselves result in good design.

We believe that only through the application of a rigorous design review by a qualified body can there be reasonable assurance of protecting the public interest. We have seen too many instances of cafe enclosures that comply in every respect with all the regulations but are nevertheless unsightly. The possible licensing of cafes in public space for year-round operation obviously compounds the design problem.

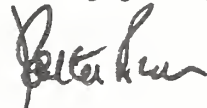
Since many of the important areas of the city where such cafes are to be expected already are under the design review jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts, it would seem appropriate if all applicants were required to submit their projects through the Public Space Committee and the Permit Office to this Commission. We have had a great deal of experience in this matter, under the Old Georgetown and Shipstead-Luce Acts, and the fact that we already review many of the proposals argues for an extension of this process if for no other reason than the uniform application of the regulations.

26 January, 1978

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We would appreciate being advised of the schedule for the required public hearings so that we can testify.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

*J. Carter Brown
Chairman*

*Mr. Ted D. Kuemmerling
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Legislation and Opinions Division
Office of the Corporation Counsel
337 District Building
14th & E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004*

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

PRELIMINARY DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR CAFE ENCLOSURES

First, the Commission of Fine Arts recommends against the use of any rigid or semi-rigid materials for enclosing outdoor cafes. Materials such as canvas or vinyl awning coverings are acceptable, while sheet plastics and metals such as aluminum or corrugated tin are not. The latter materials are out of character with the temporary and seasonal nature of an outdoor dining area. Canvas and vinyl, because of their light, flexible nature, have to be replaced from time to time, and this tends to keep the character of the public space alive and fresh.

Secondly, the supporting structures should be deemphasized as design elements, avoiding the use of heavy box columns or other bulky vertical supports. The side walls should never consist of more than roll-type shades or baffles and should be clearly removable. In fact, the entire structure and enclosure should be readily demountable, and should appear so.

Signs on the awnings should be kept small, merely identifying the name of the restaurant and the street address if desired. They should not be illuminated.

Planters or other small partitions separating the dining area from the public pedestrian area should be kept simple in design and materials. They too should be lightweight and flexible in order to facilitate easy removal.

On a more general level of design, the shapes of awnings and enclosures should be kept as simple as possible, even when attached to elaborately detailed buildings; the more elaborate the building the better it is to keep the awning understated as a contrasting foil.

Probably the most important thing to keep in mind in the design of outdoor cafes is the seasonal aspect of their tradi-

tional use. At best they should be temporary, attractive shelters from sun and rain and should be kept open, light, and airy, with a minimum of structure.

If in certain circumstances where the impact on the public space will permit some latitude, and the enclosures are intended to operate in winter with supplementary curtains, the design should be done in such a way as to minimize the feeling of being closed in. The sense of canopy and shelter should always prevail over the sense of enclosure.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

26 January, 1978

Dear Mr. Reiss:

The Commission would like to recommend further study of the revisions to the Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden that were reviewed at our meeting on January 19, 1978.

The paving materials proposed at the present time may prove to be too dark. The "clinker" bricks and the slate usually come in relatively dark values, which might result in an uncomfortably hot condition during the summer months. Also, neither of these materials harmonizes particularly well with the color of the garden walls or the paths adjacent to the garden on the Mall. Some thought ought to be given to a material with tones similar to the surroundings.

The planting materials also may present a problem, especially in regard to the eventual heights the trees might reach. Edward Stone, Jr., the landscape member of the Commission, was unable to attend the meeting, so we would like the opportunity to withhold our approval on the specifics of the planting until he has had a chance to review it in detail. Any additional information you can supply in this regard would be most helpful.

Otherwise the general design proposals are acceptable. We would, of course, like to review the actual working drawings of the ramps, railings, and other elements prior to final approval.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Phillip K. Reiss
Director
Office of Facilities Planning
and Engineering Services
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

26 January, 1978

Dear Jack,

The Commission would like to explore alternate locations for the proposed tourmobile maintenance facility that we reviewed at our meeting on January 19, 1978.

The Commission felt that the proposed location in East Potomac Park is the wrong place for a large warehouse-type building. Under no stretch of the imagination can this be viewed as a "non-building" as described by the architects. The roof in particular would be in full view from the bridge approaches to Washington, not to mention the view from the air, or the Washington Monument. It was felt doubtful that any amount of surrounding landscaping could hope completely to offset the effect. The site is an important gateway to the city.

At the same time alternative locations for the tourmobile facility are being studied, it is our recommendation that some thought be given to the eventual removal of the other maintenance facilities that are already there. They are an eyesore as well, and should be phased out and located somewhere else.

The Commission was, at the same time, sympathetic to the practical needs of the Park Service, and I believe a physical inspection of this and other possible sites by the Commission would be in order. We would be happy to have a member of our staff work with your office and go over possible alternative locations prior to our next meeting. I understand some thought has been given to the subject and the staff would be glad to meet with the Park Service on the problem.

On a related problem, the Commission also felt that the tennis bubble in East Potomac Park, which has not been submitted to the Commission, presents a very big and ugly aspect

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26 January, 1978

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to the same gateway experience. Our hope is that some other hard courts in a less conspicuous location that will lend themselves to winterization could be found. Are there any such facilities at the courts at 16th and Kennedy?

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

26 January, 1978

Dear Jack,

The Commission reviewed revised designs for the Freedom Bell installation at Columbus Plaza at our meeting on January 19, 1978.

We are glad to see the supports for the bell are now visualized as simple rectangular stone piers set symmetrically in line with the main axis of Union Station. Much care will have to be exercised in the design of the details, so that the joints will not make the supports look as though they are fashioned from veneered stone casings wrapped around another material.

We will be happy to have the staff keep in close touch with the architect, as detailed drawings are developed, if you think this would be appropriate and helpful.

In any event, the Commission would like to review the detailed designs prior to final approval.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1978

Dear Jay:

Plans for the renovation of the Old Post Office were reviewed at the Commission's meeting on January 19, 1978. As I believe you already know, the Commission voted unanimously to withhold complete approval of the project until it has some assurance that the problem of the presently incompleted portions of the IRS Buildings and the area immediately around the Post Office can be resolved. I am sure you agree that the present conditions are an eyesore, and the Commission could not approve any aspect of the proposed Post Office scheme that might lock the city into the status quo without at least addressing the larger issue.

Fortunately we do not see why this has to hold up any of the renovation work on the inside of the old building. Arthur Moore's designs are excellent. It is evident he has given a great deal of thought not only to the architecture, but to how the building will be used and come alive. The Commission sees no problem with any of his internal proposals.

The depressed entrances on the south and east sides of the building, however, are part of a larger issue that should be addressed before the project advances much further.

The Commission will be happy to meet with project representatives and the architect on the site to explore various possibilities if you think that would be useful.

With congratulations on an excellent project and all best wishes,

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
ChairmanHon. Joel W. Solomon
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

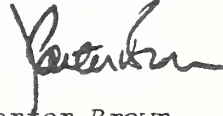
26 January, 1978

Dear Mr. Barnes:

On behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts I am approving the material samples for sidewalk paving on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue adjacent to the National Gallery of Art East Building. The material selected was the darkest of the three samples inspected January 19, 1978, and is a wire-cut, 8-inch-square extruded dark brown range brick.

We would appreciate having three or four of the sample pavers in question so that we can show them to the members at our next meeting, and for record purposes.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. W. Anderson Barnes
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

